

Henry Leck Vocalises

Boy's Expanding Voice

#1 #2 #3

[u] [a] [e o e o e o e o a]

Movement: Knucklebones to the cheekbones.

7 #4

[e o e o e o e o a]

Movement: Swoop up with hands until [a] when hands come up

9 #5

[i]

Movement: Start with hands by eyebrows and lift up on each beat.

11 #6

zing a zing a zing a zing a za

Movement: L foot R foot, L snap, R snap on each beat.

Quotes from Henry Leck to his boys:

"Keep it light and floating."
 "Don't push the sound."
 "Let it happen."
 "Lots of space in the mouth."

Notes about the changing voice:

The foundation of the new voice is built from the top down.

Sigh from top voice and gently change to low.

Lighten up and bring your head voice down.

It is more difficult to sigh from bottom to the top of the voice.

Start in D major, which is in the midrange of a changing voice.

Vocalises should employ movement, which reduces tension in neck and jaw.

Boys who stop singing during the voice change may actually lose their ability to sing in their high voice.

The body grows at a different rate than the larynx. (A tall boy ≠ a low voice)
 Some change as early as 6th grade, and as late as 11th or 12th grade.